

January 14, 1993

Docket Nos. 50-266
and 50-301

Mr. Robert E. Link, Vice President
Nuclear Power Department
Wisconsin Electric Power Company
231 West Michigan Street, Room P379
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

Dear Mr. Link:

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SUBJECT: POINT BEACH, UNITS 1 AND 2 - TEMPORARY WAIVER OF COMPLIANCE FROM
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION SECTION 15.3.0 (TAC NOS. M85314 AND M85315)

This letter confirms the granting of a Temporary Waiver of Compliance from Technical Specification (TS) requirements contained in the Point Beach, Units 1 and 2 (PBNP) TS Section 15.3, "Limiting Conditions for Operation [LCO]."

On January 7, 1993, you completed a review of ABB Impel calculations which indicated that the existing degraded grid voltage relay settings for the 4160V safety-related buses may be too low to provide adequate protection for all safety-related equipment. PBNP staff subsequently declared all 4160V degraded voltage protection channels inoperable at 1615 EST, invoking the requirements of TS Table 15.3.5-3, "Emergency Cooling," Item 4.a, which allows continued operation for up to 7 days provided the affected buses are being supplied by the associated emergency diesel generators (EDGs). Your staff determined that operating the PBNP for an extended period of time with all four of the safety-related 4160V buses supplied from the EDGs was not consistent with maintaining the maximum level of plant safety since grid voltage could be best maintained at a high level with both PBNP units on line. Your decision to not supply the 4160V buses for an extended period of time with the EDGs placed PBNP in a condition prohibited by TS 15.3.0.A which required the plant to be in the Hot Shutdown condition within 3 hours.

In a telephone conference with NRC staff at 1740 EST on January 7, 1993, during which the Point Beach plant continued to reduce power (in accordance with TS 15.3.0.A), you requested that the LCO Action requirement be held in abeyance until both NRC and your staff discuss further your request for a Temporary Waiver of Compliance. The NRC granted your request to hold the LCO action requirement in abeyance and requested that you maintain power until completion of a detailed technical discussion of the situation beginning at 1830 EST. Our decision to hold the LCO Action in abeyance was based on the following:

- (1) Sufficient information was available to clearly identify the problem.
- (2) PBNP implemented adequate interim compensatory measures.

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- (3) You committed to submit a permanent TS change request.
- (4) There was a logical argument for PBNP to continue supplying power to the grid.
- (5) You committed to formally request a Temporary Waiver of Compliance at 1830 EST.
- (6) NRC staff agreed with your determination that other, more desirable, alternatives were available than operating the EDGs for an extended period of time.

On January 7, 1993, 1830 EST, your staff presented technical arguments supporting a Temporary Waiver of Compliance. At 2020 EST, the NRC Senior Resident Inspector informed you that the NRC granted your request for a Temporary Waiver of Compliance.

The NRC's basis for granting this Temporary Waiver of Compliance is based primarily on the very low probability of occurrence, compensatory actions which have been implemented at PBNP, and your commitment to submit an emergency TS change request for Point Beach Units 1 and 2 by January 19, 1993.

The NRC acknowledges your commitment to implement the following compensatory measures:

- (1) The Unit 2 control operator is assigned to monitor and record hourly voltage readings on 4160V Buses A05 and A06 associated with Units 1 and 2.
- (2) If system control (located in Pewaukee, Wisconsin) receives a voltage alarm indicating that 345 KV bus section 1,2,3,4 or 5 voltage has decreased to less than 354KV, PBNP will be notified.
- (3) Upon notification that system voltage has decreased below 354KV, or if a voltage transient is detected, a dedicated licensed operator will immediately report to the control room and continuously monitor voltage on the A05 and A06 buses associated with Units 1 and 2. The dedicated licensed operator shall continue these duties until system voltage remains stable and at normal operating voltage.
- (4) If the voltage on Buses A05 and/or A06 associated with Units 1 and/or 2 drops below 4100V, system control will be immediately requested to take action to increase system voltage until all vital bus voltages exceed 4100V.
- (5) If the voltage on Buses A05 and/or A06 associated with Units 1 and/or 2 drops below 4050V, the on-site combustion turbine generator (CTG) will be started but not loaded.

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- (6) If the voltage on Buses A05 and/or A06 associated with Unit 1 and/or 2 drops below 4000V, the normal feeder breaker associated with the bus or buses below 4000V will be immediately opened. Licensed operators shall verify that the associated EDG starts correctly and supplies normal voltage.
- (7) Following any action taken above, the Duty Shift Superintendent (DSS) shall place Units 1 and 2 in an operating condition allowed by TS 15.3.7 consistent with the resulting electrical configuration.
- (8) Until plant modifications to change undervoltage setpoint are completed (by January 21, 1993), the emergency diesel generators shall not be removed from service for any reason.

Additionally, the NRC acknowledges several PBNP commitments which were made concerning this Temporary Waiver of Compliance, as follows:

- (1) The CTG will be tested biweekly until the issuance of a permanent TS change.
- (2) Plant modifications will be made to change the undervoltage setpoints within 14 days.
- (3) You will include in your request for a license amendment, documentation of your plans to verify adequacy of the new undervoltage setpoint.

Your letter dated January 8, 1993, which formally documented the request for a Temporary Waiver of Compliance reflected a 14-day Temporary Waiver. The NRC does not believe that 14 days is sufficient to administratively process a license amendment. In addition, the staff believes that your commitment to modify the undervoltage setpoints for PBNP, Units 1 and 2 within 14 days adequately addresses the PBNP undervoltage setpoint issue. Therefore, a Temporary Waiver of Compliance from PBNP TS 15.3.0.A is hereby granted until issuance of a permanent change to the Technical Specifications.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

John A. Zwolinski, Assistant Director
for Region III Reactors
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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(*) Concurred by telephone on date indicated

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Mr. Robert E. Link
Wisconsin Electric Power Company

Point Beach Nuclear Plant
Unit Nos. 1 and 2

cc:

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